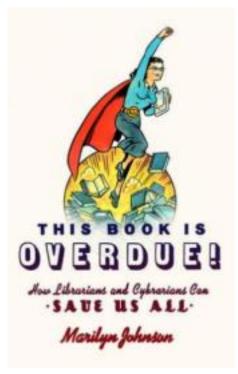
# What We're Reading



Check out the "What We're Reading" display at the library and read something new and different. We keep this display stocked with books that staff members have read and enjoyed.

Every other week, the West Linn Tidings and Lake Oswego Review publish book reviews written by West Linn Public Library staff. Click on the titles to find these books at the library.

<u>This Book is Overdue! How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All</u> By Marilyn Johnson

There is a common misconception that Google is making libraries obsolete. Marilyn Johnson sets out to squash that idea in this entertaining ode to libraries and librarians. So why are libraries still relevant in the Google age? Precisely because Google exists. People have more access to more information than ever before, and librarians are trained to help you find what you're looking for amongst all that data, and they will do this for free. Johnson writes about how librarians wear many different hats, acting as information professionals, teachers, community organizers, computer technicians, historians, confidantes, clerks, social workers, and storytellers. Johnson delves into the fascinating world of Second Life, and investigates special little places that most people don't know about, such as the American Kennel Club Library in New York. The most fascinating story is the one about librarians in Connecticut who challenged the law allowing the FBI to collect private patron information in total secrecy (unfortunately, the law still exists).

-- recommended by Cheryl Hill, Reference Librarian

## **Zombieland**

Directed by Ruben Felischer

Vampires may have commanded all the attention over the past few years, but for my money, you can't beat zombies for a good old-fashioned cinematic fright fest. Those mindless, shambling, brain-eating horrors have inspired some great films over the years and this film is a fine addition to the pantheon. The movie's hero, Columbus, is one of the few people still uninfected by a worldwide zombie pandemic, and he has devised a set of rules designed to ensure one's survival. Fate, however, throws Columbus together with Tallahassee, whose

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maverick ways and single-minded pursuit of the last Twinkie on earth plays havoc with Columbus' carefully orchestrated survival strategy. Life is further complicated when he and Tallahassee meet up with Wichita and Little Rock, two more survivors intent on traveling to California to find some remnant of the pre-zombie-apocalypse America. "Zombieland" is a smart, funny movie, with one of the best surprise celebrity cameos in recent memory.

--recommended by Greg Williams, Reference Librarian

### La's Orchestra Saves the World

By Alexander McCall Smith

As with most every book by Alexander McCall Smith, this book features a gentle, kind, and warmhearted heroine. La is shocked by her husband's abandonment and subsequent death. She has an opportunity to move out of London and live in the country. But when World War II begins, it seems safer to stay and contribute to the war effort in her own small way. She loves music so when she discovers musicians in the village and at the nearby RAF base she organizes an amateur orchestra. She especially enjoys the friendship of a Polish airman. When he is suspected of being a German spy it causes her great concern and soul-searching. I really treasure the various stories of hardship and camaraderie from the World War II era and this is a wonderful example.

-- recommended by Lee Trevor, Library Aide

#### Moon

Directed by Duncan Jones

In the not-too-distant future, Earth's energy problems have been solved thanks to Helium-3, a cheap and plentiful substance found only on the moon. Lunar Industries operates the sole Helium-3 mining facility, staffed by one astronaut. With just 2 weeks left to go on his contract, Sam Bell is eager to return to Earth. The isolation, however, seems to be catching up to Sam, who suffers from a hallucination that leads to a near fatal accident. After waking up and recuperating in the base's infirmary, Sam returns to the scene of the accident and makes a discovery which causes him to question his sanity, his future, and the true nature of his employment. While some aspects of the film seem a bit too heavily influenced by Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" (especially the base's omnipresent computer system, GERTY, voiced by Kevin Spacey), the film is nevertheless an effective and enjoyable combination of science fiction, mystery, and psychological suspense.

--recommended by Greg Williams, Reference Librarian, West Linn Public Library

## The Broken Teaglass

## by Emily Arsenault

When Billy graduates from college with his philosophy degree, he finds job prospects few and far between. He finally finds a position as a lexicographer with the Samuelson Dictionary Company. Getting ready for his first day of work, he pictures his days ahead as quiet and staid, and following the company tradition of reading the front matter of the unabridged version of the dictionary on his first day of work, does not disabuse him of this notion. It all begins with the word "editrix". In responding to a customer query about the use of the word, Billy pulls citations from a file. One of these citations quotes from a book called The Broken Teaglass. He and his coworker Mona decide that there is something a little bit strange about this citation. So, when a second citation appears quoted from the same source, and they discover that The Broken Teaglass does not seem to exist, they are hooked. Together Mona and Billy begin to unravel a mystery buried deep within Samuelson itself. The Broken Teaglass is an intriguing read that delves into the world of words and how people use them. Ms. Arsenault's first novel is sure to please both wordsmiths and mystery lovers.

- --recommended by Sarah McIntyre, Support Services Manager
  - Library
  - Just for Seniors
  - Adults (Library Only)

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